

Introduced by Senator Wolk

April 16, 2012

Senate Concurrent Resolution No. 85—Relative to the Dana Cowell Memorial Highway.

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

SCR 85, as introduced, Wolk. Dana Cowell Memorial Highway.

This measure would designate a specified portion of State Highway Route 12 in the County of San Joaquin as the Dana Cowell Memorial Highway. This measure would also request the Department of Transportation to determine the cost of appropriate signs showing this special designation and, upon receiving donations from nonstate sources covering those costs, to erect those signs.

Fiscal committee: yes.

- 1 WHEREAS, The passing on January 21, 2012, of a distinguished
- 2 California resident and devoted civic leader, Dana Cowell, whose
- 3 good deeds earned him the respect and admiration of his colleagues
- 4 and the countless individuals whose lives he touched, brought
- 5 immense sorrow and loss to people throughout the State; and
- 6 WHEREAS, Dana Cowell, who brought credit and distinction
- 7 to himself as Deputy Director of the San Joaquin Council of
- 8 Governments (SJCOG), enjoyed a lifetime of remarkable success
- 9 in every avenue of his endeavors, inspiring others through his
- 10 professional achievements, support of the community, and strong
- 11 devotion to family; and
- 12 WHEREAS, Dana Cowell joined SJCOG in 2006 after serving
- 13 in a number of key transportation posts over the course of 26 years
- 14 with the California Department of Transportation (Caltrans); and

1 WHEREAS, Last year, Dana Cowell was named Transportation
2 Manager of the Year by the California Transportation Foundation
3 for his dedication to overcoming obstacles to transportation
4 projects; and

5 WHEREAS, Among Dana Cowell's recent notable
6 accomplishments are critical safety improvements and construction
7 along State Highway Route 12 through San Joaquin County that
8 will begin imminently; and

9 WHEREAS, Dana Cowell led a partnership with Caltrans to
10 develop intersection upgrades between State Highway Route 5
11 and Potato Slough Bridge highlighted by the complete redesign
12 of the State Highway Route 12 Tower Parkway Glasscock Road
13 intersection, and the construction contract for this \$20 million
14 project was awarded in early January 2012; and

15 WHEREAS, Projects on State Highway Route 5, State Highway
16 Route 99, State Highway Route 205, and Arch Road in Stockton
17 all benefitted from Dana Cowell's commitment to transportation;
18 and

19 WHEREAS, Dana Cowell also worked with Sacramento and
20 Bay Area transportation leaders to craft the Northern California
21 Trade Corridor Projects, directed SJCOG's organization of the
22 Valley Wide State Transportation Improvement Program, and
23 initiated SJCOG efforts to advance modeling techniques and
24 planning tools in response to Senate Bill No. 375 of the 2007–08
25 Regular Session (Ch. 728, Stats. 2008), which requires reductions
26 of greenhouse gas emissions; and

27 WHEREAS, Dana Cowell was well known and respected by
28 transportation planners throughout the state, and his significant
29 knowledge and contributions, dedication, and warm friendship
30 will be missed in the profession; and

31 WHEREAS, Dana Cowell was married to Van Ha To Cowell,
32 current President of the Lincoln Unified School District Board of
33 Trustees; and

34 WHEREAS, The couple met in Tennessee while Dana Cowell
35 was pursuing his master's degree in urban planning from the
36 University of Tennessee; and

37 WHEREAS, Dana Cowell received his undergraduate degree
38 from Carthage College in Wisconsin, the state where he was raised;
39 and

1 WHEREAS, Dana Cowell leaves to mourn his passing and
2 celebrate his legacy his wife, Van Ha To Cowell; his two sons,
3 Evan and Andrew; his mother; his two brothers; and a host of
4 friends and relatives; now, therefore, be it

5 *Resolved by the Senate of the State of California, the Assembly*
6 *thereof concurring*, That the Legislature hereby designates the
7 portion of State Highway Route 12 between Potato Slough Bridge
8 and State Highway Route 5, in the County of San Joaquin, as the
9 Dana Cowell Memorial Highway; and be it further

10 *Resolved*, That the Department of Transportation is requested
11 to determine the cost of appropriate signs consistent with the
12 signing requirements for the state highway system showing this
13 special designation and, upon receiving donations from nonstate
14 sources sufficient to cover the cost, to erect those signs; and be it
15 further

16 *Resolved*, That the Secretary of the State transmit copies of this
17 resolution to the Department of Transportation and to the author
18 for appropriate distribution.